

THE FAIR SHOT ACT - SB 5173/HB 1400

www.nwclc.org/fairshotact

Provide financial relief to Washington families **NOW**

Washington personal property exemptions are too low. Currently, the National Consumer Law Center gives our state a "C" grade for protecting the personal property of working families. Personal property exemptions protect money in a bank account, vehicles, and other necessities from garnishment and seizure.



Personal property exemptions keep families out of poverty.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing numbers of Washington families rely on exemptions to protect their property from creditors. Yet, outdated laws put this option out of reach for many at the time they need it the most. The Fair Shot Act updates and strengthens these safety net protections.

Personal property exemptions protect working families.

When facing garnishment, personal property exemptions help people keep money in their bank accounts, keep their vehicles, and keep other necessities. When filing for bankruptcy, a debtor can protect the equity in their personal property up to a certain limit. If the value of the property is less than the limit, the bankruptcy trustee cannot seize and sell the property. The exemption also protects small business owners struggling to stay afloat in the face of COVID-19 shutdowns.



What does The Fair Shot Act Do?

- Helps working families keep their cars by raising the exemption to the average value of a vehicle;
- Helps people keep enough money in their bank account to cover rent and necessities;
- Helps small business owners keep the tools they need to run their business;
- Helps injured persons protect their compensation for their pain and suffering; and
- Provides financial independence for women by updating marriage property law from 1854.

Families will see real pandemic relief at no cost to the state.

The Fair Shot Act provides real, tangible relief to vulnerable working people without costing taxpayers a cent.

Watch the stories of Aimee and others impacted by the Fair Shot Act:

<https://nwclc.org/fairshotact>



"I am requesting your assistance [in passing the Fair Shot Act] so the money that I received for my pain and suffering and...lost wages are used to cover rent and groceries. Under the current law, the settlement I received is subject to garnishment. Please don't allow medically vulnerable people such as myself to spiral further into poverty" – Aimee Luzier, Concerned Citizen Supporting the Fair Shot Act.

Supporters of the Fair Shot Act : Columbia Legal Services • Washington State Association for Justice
• Statewide Poverty Action Network • National Consumer Law Center • National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys • Washington State National Organization for Women

Support The Fair Shot Act and give our state an **A** grade in protecting working families from poverty.